



THE UNITED STATES DIPLOMACY CENTER

Winter 2018 Newsletter

Jazz Diplomacy

We are excited to host the photography exhibit “Jam Session: America’s Jazz Ambassadors Embrace the World” February 14-May 31. During the Cold War, the Department of State sponsored tours of music greats such as Dizzy Gillespie, Benny Goodman, Louis Armstrong, and Duke Ellington. In sharing their talents and interacting with audiences around the world, the musicians helped promote a positive view of the United States.



Courtesy of the Louis Armstrong House Museum

This exhibition was created by Meridian International Center, and U.S. embassies have sponsored the exhibit around the world. The public may visit the exhibit Monday to Friday during business hours. Visitors should present ID and be prepared to go through security screening. Be on the lookout for special events in April to celebrate Jazz Appreciation Month!

Behind the Scenes: Moving our Collection



What does it take to move an entire museum collection? Center staff found out this winter when it relocated its collection storage space. While the planning took over a year, the actual move was carried out in six days by fine arts handlers. It took eleven truckloads to move everything from the old storage location in southwest Washington, DC, to the new facility close to the Center.

The new collections room more than doubles the Center’s storage capacity. Our curators are delighted to have easy access to the collection and the space to grow it.



Diplomacy Simulations: A Growing Audience

Our Diplomacy Simulations remain the focal point of the Center’s outreach to students, young professionals and educators. Nearly 100 simulations were held in 2017, reaching more than 3,000 participants. In November, the education team led our international migration simulation in Portland, Oregon, with students and young professionals from WorldOregon’s Youth Leadership Council.



The team is expanding its outreach efforts to subject matter expert groups to highlight the many issues the Department of State engages on as it supports U.S. interests around the world. In December, our team led a simulation on wildlife trafficking with staff from the World Wildlife Foundation. Participants said the experience was an effective way to heighten their own network’s awareness of the threat that trafficking poses to wildlife.



Trailblazing African American Diplomats

In commemoration of African American History Month, the Center hosted a program on the little known diplomatic careers of Ebenezer Bassett and Frederick Douglass. Both served as U.S. Ministers to Haiti in the late 19th century.



Dr. Alison Mann, the Center's public historian, was joined by Bassett biographer and Foreign Service Officer Christopher Teal, and by the



curator of the Frederick Douglass National Historic Site, Dr. Ka'mal McClarin. Mr. Teal related how Bassett became an early advocate for international human rights during Haiti's civil war. Dr. Mann spoke about Douglass' efforts to negotiate with the Haitian government for a lease of a coaling station for U.S. ships, and Dr. McClarin then showcased several artifacts belonging to Douglass during his time in the Caribbean. The well attended program attracted students, educators, and staff from the Smithsonian Institution and Department of State.

2017 Acquisition Highlights

The Center is the unique repository for artifacts that represent American diplomatic history and practice. In 2017, we acquired over 350 artifacts including:



Fire Helmet

L.A. County Fire Department's Urban Search and Rescue Team is trained and authorized to deploy with U.S. Agency for International Development Disaster Assistance Response Teams to respond to international crises.

Support the U.S. Diplomacy Center

Located at the Department of State's historic headquarters, the Harry S Truman Building, the Center will invite visitors to explore the history, practice, and challenges of American diplomacy through interactive exhibits, artifacts, hands-on educational programs, diplomacy simulations, and discussions with foreign affairs experts.



The United States Diplomacy Center is a non-partisan and apolitical museum and education center dedicated to telling the story of American diplomacy. Our private partner, the Diplomacy Center Foundation, works

to support the creation of the museum and education center. Donations can be made through its website at DiplomacyCenterFoundation.org or directly to the United States Diplomacy Center. For questions or additional information, please contact us at DiplomacyCenter@state.gov.

